

2 January 1951

Mr. Leon Pearson  
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.  
NCA Building, Radio City  
New York 20, New York

Dear Leon:

I have your letter of 17 December 1950, relative to the experiences of German scientists in the Soviet Union.

After a thorough search by my people here in Washington, I am advised that there is no unclassified information which can be made available regarding the activities of German scientists in the USSR which would confirm or deny the information given you by these two men. I regret that we can not be of any assistance to you in this matter.

With best wishes for a successful New Year.

Sincerely,

*W. Bessell Smith*

OSI:RLC/mtw  
Rewritten: O/DCI  
JSE/c

Distribution:

Orig—addressee

1 cc—Central Records w/~~basic~~ basic

2 cc—AD/ST w/cy basic

2 cc—Signer *w/cy basic*

*"I hope you will drop in and see me when you are next in Washington. May I have this leaving you nearby."*

*Official*

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.  
A Service of Radio Corporation of America  
RCA BUILDING, RADIO CITY, NEW YORK 20, NY

Circle 7-6300

NBC News Room, New York  
December 17, 1950.

Lieut. General Walter Bedell Smith, Director,  
Central Intelligence Agency,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General:

I am engaged in preparing an article about new methods of warfare being tested in the Soviet Union -- especially bacteriological warfare, and the planting of bubonic plague bacilli on migratory birds. My sources are the experiences of two German scientists who were forced to work on these experiments, but later escaped Russia to tell the story.

It would be very helpful to me if I could get confirmation of this material from a United States source. Would you be good enough to refer me to someone in Washington or New York, in CIA, or perhaps in Chemical Warfare, who might be acquainted with Russian experiments of this character?

I miss the opportunity to see you from time to time at Governor's Island, and hope our paths may cross again soon.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

/s/ Leon

LEON PEARSON

C  
O  
P  
Y

MEMORANDUM TO: GENERAL SMITH

Mr. Leon Pearson, in the attached letter (Tab A), indicates that he is preparing an article on bacteriological warfare and that his sources are the experiences of two German scientists who were forced to work for the Soviets, but later escaped. Mr. Pearson has asked if we could get confirmation from U. S. sources that the Russians are "experimenting with bacteriological warfare".

I have been informed by Dr. Chadwell that he knows of no unclassified sources which could be furnished Mr. Pearson.

*JEE*

3 January 1951

(DATE)

# SIGNATURE RECORD AND COVER SHEET

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	REGISTRY
SOURCE:	CIA CONTROL NUMBER:
DATE OF DOCUMENT:	DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED:
COPY NUMBER (S):	LOGGED BY:
NUMBER OF PAGES:                      DOCUMENT NO.	
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS:	

**ATTENTION:** THIS FORM WILL BE ATTACHED TO EACH TOP SECRET DOCUMENT RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OR CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET WITHIN THE CIA AND WILL REMAIN ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT IS DOWNGRADED, DESTROYED OR TRANSMITTED OUTSIDE OF CIA. ACCESS TO TOP SECRET MATERIAL IS LIMITED TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE OFFICIAL DUTIES RELATE TO THE MATERIAL. EACH ALTERNATE OR ASSISTANT TOP SECRET CONTROL OFFICER WHO RECEIVES AND/OR RELEASES THE ATTACHED TOP SECRET MATERIAL WILL SIGN THIS FORM AND INDICATE PERIOD OF CUSTODY IN THE LEFT-HAND COLUMNS PROVIDED. THE NAME OF EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS SEEN THE TOP SECRET DOCUMENT AND THE DATE OF HANDLING SHOULD BE INDICATED IN THE RIGHT-HAND COLUMNS.

[illegible]

## NOTICE OF DETACHMENT

WHEN THIS FORM IS DETACHED FROM TOP SECRET MATERIAL IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE APPROPRIATE SPACES BELOW AND TRANSMITTED TO CENTRAL TOP SECRET CONTROL FOR RECORD.

The Top Secret material detached from this form was:

DOWNGRADED

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

DESTROYED

DISPATCHED (OUTSIDE CIA) TO: \_\_\_\_\_

(OFFICE) (DATE)

(DATE)

Approved For Release 2003/07/09 : TOP SECRET//SI//DP80R01731R003100130023-3